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Editorial Notes

We pray to God: "Give us this day, our daily bread." Have we seen the answer? In one way we see it. Our grandfathers used to reap their wheat with a sickle; in those days the daily wage of a harvester was a peck of wheat. Today the harvester receives for a day's work the value of two or three bushels of wheat. The prayer has its answer.

But more than this: We expect the soil of the older States to become worn and exhausted. Is it so? Prof. Milton Whitney, of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, says that in the last forty years the yield of our fields has increased rather than decreased. Even in New England it has increased. In the nation at large, while there has been a decrease of half a bushel per acre in the yield of corn; there has been an increase of two bushels per acre in the yield of wheat. God is giving us our daily bread.

Dr. Lewis W. Mudge's studies in the Minutes of the Northern Presbyterian Church have come to be a feature of the late summer issues of the church papers. His last published study is one of the Seminaries, and reveals the sad fact that from 1895 to 1900 the attendance of students dropped from 982 to 670, and of graduates from 306 to 164. There has been an increase, however, of late, and the figures of 1909, while deplorable as compared with those of 1895, are encouraging when compared with more recent years.

The "Western Recorder" uses a column to insist that if a man has been immersed by some minister who had not been regularly immersed, his baptism is void.

If this be correct, then each applicant for membership would have to trace the ecclesiastical genealogy of the minister who is to baptize him, before he can be sure that the proposed baptism is valid. To do this is utterly impossible. Surely God does not require impossibilities.

A timely note was sounded by Dr. Charles S. Stoddard in a sermon preached on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination. In speaking of the high office of the Christian ministry, he said: "It is not a minister's chief duty to make social visits, or conduct school celebrations, or address societies, or deliver lectures on literary or scientific subjects; it is not his chief duty to raise subscriptions or direct benevolent institutions, or preside over colleges or edit newspapers—though all these may sometimes come within the sphere of his duty and be properly undertaken. Nor is it his chief duty to build church edifices or procure funds for benevolent purposes, though he should do all that he can consistently do to build up the external walls of Zion. But it is his chief duty, everywhere and at all times, in the church and in the school, in the house and in the street, on the First Day and on every week day, to Christians and infidels, to brother ministers and to publicans and sinners, to proclaim, by his words and in his life, Jesus Christ and him crucified."

Dr. George Edward Post, whose death has been announced, rendered to the world a life-service whose value is beyond all estimate. He was both a minister and a physician. For a time he was connected with the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania; then a student at Union Theological Seminary, New York. He was professor of surgery in the Syrian Protestant Hospital at Beirut, under the care of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, which position he held at the time of his death. For his work in missions, and medicine he received decorations of honor from Turkish, German and other sources, and was a member of prominent scientific societies in Great Britain and America. He was the author of a number of volumes on scientific and medical subjects, and of a concordance to the Bible. He wrote in the English, Syriac, French and Latin languages. The Orient is feeling the new life that is coming out of the teaching of this man and his associates. The customs of a thousand years are changing and governments are being transformed.